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PONY

72
December
2015



**WHAT TO GIVE
YOUR BFF
(HORSE OR HUMAN)**

**SANESA
CHAMPS**

**THIS YEAR'S NATIONALS
WERE YOU THERE?**



**Are you
inside?**

YOUNG RIDER SERIES ...

**BEHIND THE LEG, IN
FRONT OF THE LEG –
WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?**

TALLYHO!

**JOIN
THE
HUNT!**



it's super fun!

BOUNCE!

**IT'S FOR
HORSES TOO –
POLEWORK
SCHOOLING**



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Laurence: Animo Alfred shirt, Komutekir breeches, Horseware Platinum belt, Animo Xara tie. **Shari:** Animo Barras shirt, Animo Nonus breeches, De Niro black boots. **Kiara:** Animo Bisker shirt, Animo Menard breeches, Regent oxblood boots



James: Horseware boys Pique Polo shirt.

Kiara: Horseware Pique Polo shirt, Horseware denim breeches. **Skyra:** Horseware Pique Polo shirt, Horseware Classic jodhpurs. **Laurence:** Horseware men's Pique Polo shirt, Horseware Torino breeches, Animo Habit belt.

Alexis: Horseware Flamboro Polo shirt, Horseware Summer ladies denim breeches, De Niro boots



Kiara: Horseware girls Pique Polo shirt, Horseware denim breeches, KEP Helmet.

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James: Horseware boys Pique Polo shirt.

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Happy holidays!

Yay, it's the holidays!! Have you bought your **pony a present** yet? Or your BFF? If not, turn to **page 18** for our cool gift ideas. If you're super-organised and already have the gifts wrapped up, then you can relax and spend some time with your horse. Yay again!



Why not use the time to try some of the tips in our fun training features this month? Look at **Bounce** on **page 4** to see how you can use jumping exercises to improve your pony's way of going. You can also improve his response to the aids with our article **About those legs** on **page 10** – where we explain how to keep your pony in front of the leg; there should be no need to spend your ride kicking like a soccer player!

If you're in the mood to chill out a bit, you can brush up on your tack knowledge with the article on **Parts of the saddle** on **page 22**. I was amazed at how many parts of my saddle I don't actually know the correct name for. We'll be including more **tack features** in future issues so we can stay up to date. And when you've done all of that, you can put your feet up, have a lazy afternoon and contemplate all the great **horsing around** you can do next year!

Till next month, happy riding.

Brigitte

Shuga says...

I'm getting B some **carrots for Christmas**. I know she loves them because she always seems to have bags of them when she's around the stables. Luckily she likes to **share them with me**, because I'm going to need some extra energy this holiday when I **go to the Hunt!** It might sound scary but it's actually not an event that involves hurting animals. The article on the **Rand Hunt** on **page 25** tells you how you can join the fun – whether you're an advanced rider or just starting out. Count me in!

Have an **amazing holiday, horse lovers!**
Love Shuga



16 HORSE OF THE MONTH

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ON THE COVER
Grey pony eating flowers
Photography: Anastasija Popova

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December

*dates correct at time of going to print

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Hope Riding Pony Camp
4 & 5 December
alida@hopriding.co.za



January

*more info on all events on www.neigh-bours.co.za



* Catch all our events and more live on air once a month on Neigh-Bours Talk Radio with DJ Neigh

Want your event here? email info@neigh-bours.co.za



YOUR LETTERS

SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND YOU COULD WIN AN AWESOME PRIZE!

This month's winner will receive these two cute pony books by **Olympic medallist, Pippa Funnell!**

Send in your letter and you might win this **Kitten & Puppy Calendar!**



NEVER LOSE HOPE

Hello **HQPony**!! I have written in before about my horse, Mouna. I have had her for almost 2 years but a while ago tragedy struck when Mouna was kicked in the face by another horse! Her face was crushed and for a whole month she was off riding while we washed her wound 3 times a day. It was horrible to see her in such pain. The vet said there were 2 options: They could remove the broken bones and leave her with a soft spot, or we could keep the wound clean, give her time off and wait for her to heal. I chose option 2, because I wanted what was best for her.

It felt like FOREVER until she got better, and I will never be able to forget what happened to my beautiful girl, because she has a dent where she was kicked (if you ever come across a horse with a dented head, it might be Mouna). Luckily she is back to her old cheeky self again. So to all the riders out there, if your horse has an injury, big or small, always have hope because things will get better!!!

HQPony, I really want to thank you for giving me hope when times got rough, thank you!! xx
Lots of pony hugs and kisses!!

Daniella Fourie (14) and Mouna!!

PS **HQPony** is our No. 1 magazine, keep up the hard work!!

What an amazing story, Daniella. We're so glad to hear that Mouna made a full recovery! **Ed**



Mouna – still beautiful!

LUCKY LETTER!

PERFECTION TAKES TIME!

Dear **HQPony**, firstly I would like to congratulate you on an AMAZING mag. I love horses and I'm always known as the 'horse crazy' girl. I don't have my own horse (YET!) and I ride a TB x Arab gelding named Kodak at my local riding school. I started riding about a year ago, and I love every second of it! Thank you for being the awesome horsey peeps you are!

Lots of love, **Danica and Kodak**

Thanks Danica – from one 'horse crazy' girl to another :) I hope you get your own horse soon, but you can keep loving Kodak in the meantime! **Ed**

SETTING GOALS

Hello **HQPony**, my name is Chandre Janse van Rensburg and I'm 15 years old. I've always loved horses and you inspired me to set myself goals with my riding. I got my first pony about 2 years ago. Her name is Olivia but we call her Livvy. She stole my heart when I saw her for the first time. She is about 5 years old and I schooled her myself. We have a bond that cannot be broken and we have so much fun every day! Thank you for your magazine that inspires so many of us.

Lots of love, **Chandre and Livvy :-)**

Thanks for telling us your story, Chandre. It's great to know how much our readers can achieve with a bit of help – schooling a young horse is a big job! You rock! **Ed**

MUFFIN MONSTER

Dear **HQPony**, I just want to say that I LOVE your magazine. I have been riding since 2008 and can't wait for next year when I am going to be in high school and riding with the big kids.

When I saw the recipe for muffins I immediately wanted to bake them – so I did, and the next day I gave them to my horse, Aloevera. She liked them very much and gobbled them down and wanted more! She is just wonderful and I couldn't ask for better. I loved jumping when I rode another horse but Aloevera sometimes gets out of control. I will try again next year and continue with my dream.

Love from **Daniëlle (Dallie)** and lots of kisses from **Aloevera (Aloe)**

Glad Aloe liked the muffins, Dallie. In our June issue (HQPony 66) we included a feature on how to use the half-halt – you might find it useful for keeping her in check when you're jumping. **Ed**



We want to hear from you!

Send your letters via email to **hqpony@panorama.co.za** with **HQPony Letters** in the subject line or post them to **HQPony Letters**, Private Bag X4, Kyalami, 1684. Remember to include your name, age and telephone number.



IT'S FOR HORSES TOO

Text: Mandy Schröder. Photography: Charlotte Bastiaanse
with thanks to Meg Tucker

We've all heard about the new trampoline craze sweeping the country as kids everywhere race off to new Bounce zones! But did you know you can bounce with your horse too?

WHAT IS A BOUNCE?

A bounce is a gymnastic exercise where the distance between 2 poles is short enough that the pony doesn't put a stride in between the poles but lands and takes off in a single motion.

WHAT DOES A BOUNCE DO?

Bounces are a wonderful way of developing co-ordination, strength and suppleness. Think about them as squats on steroids for horses! They encourage the correct use of the lumbosacral area (the area of vertebrae from behind the saddle to the pelvis) and assist in developing a proper bascule for jumping.

They are useful for teaching a pony to be sharper in front and snap his front legs

up quicker, with better tuck. They are also useful for the pony who lands flat and on the forehand after a jump, as he has to learn to be organised and stay on the hind leg ready for the next fence.

They can also be used to strengthen a pony's weak points, for example a pony who battles to shorten or lengthen his stride can be taught this gradually over time by shortening or lengthening the distance within the bounce.

Bounces don't have to be huge to be beneficial and not only showjumpers should use them. Dressage horses benefit hugely from working the important lumbosacral area (vital to collection) in a different way than dressage exercises do. It is a little like cross-training.

Bounces may be used as a single bounce, for instance 2 fences with a bounce distance between them, or may be built up over time until there is a line of bounces that your pony works down. Remember, as with any form of training, to start slowly and build on a solid, safe foundation.

EQUIPMENT TO GET STARTED

- ✿ Jump uprights, cavaletti boxes or bales
- ✿ Poles
- ✿ Arena

BASIC EXERCISES TO START

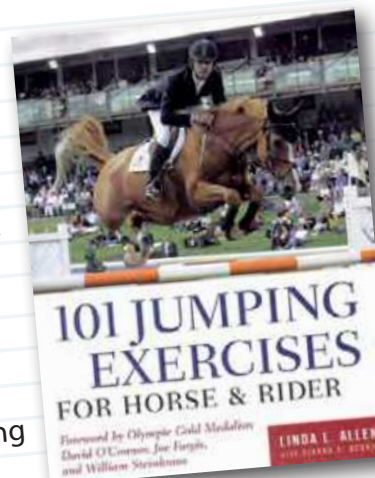
A guideline for a trot bounce distance is 2.7m between poles. The distance varies depending on the size and length of stride of your pony, so it is really helpful to have a knowledgeable person to help you from the ground and adjust the distances to suit your pony.

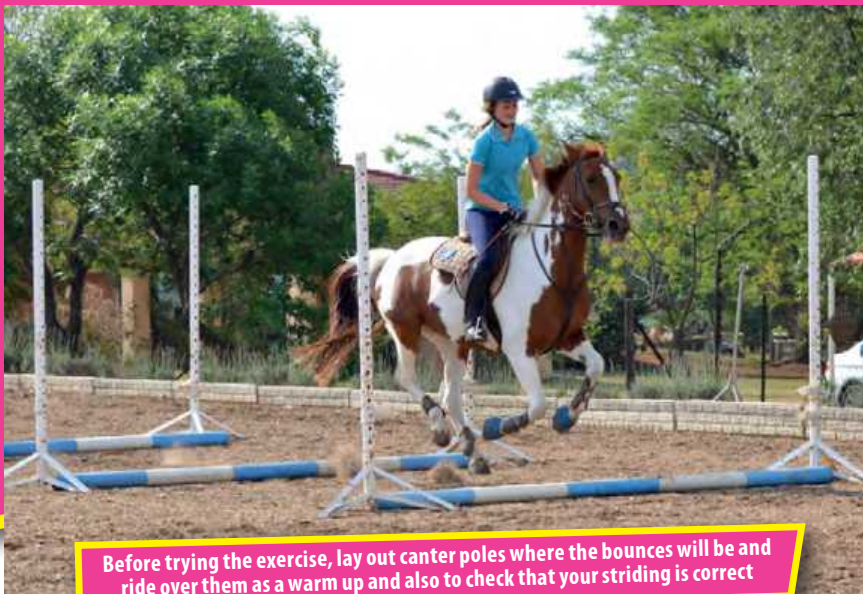
Bounces can be interspersed between poles on the ground and used in a line of gymnastics as a setup stride-wise for the jumps. Consider a placing pole on the ground to 1 to 3 bounces to a set of jumps. The placing pole sets your pony up on the correct stride, and the bounces ensure that he is working well, co-ordinated and focused and able to produce the best jump possible over the rest of the line.

Exercises vary from a straight line of gymnastics incorporating bounces to adding in diagonal lines of fences and making mini courses, where the line is repeated a few times including changes of rein. U

LEARN MORE!

A very useful book for the motivated rider is *101 Jumping Exercises for Horse and Rider* by Linda Allen. The book contains diagrams, exercises and guidelines, starting from introductory exercises and building up to technical and challenging exercises.





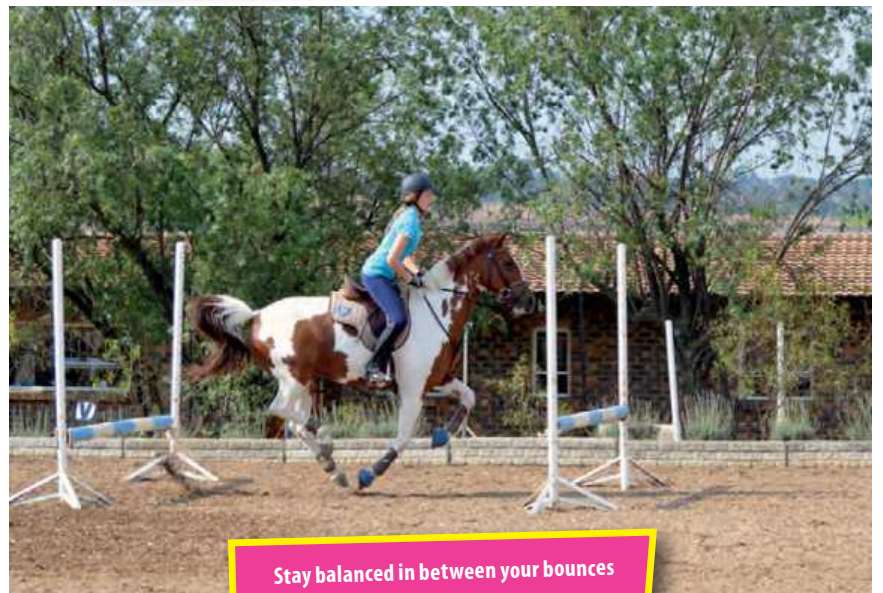
Before trying the exercise, lay out canter poles where the bounces will be and ride over them as a warm up and also to check that your striding is correct



A rhythmic and forward canter will set you up correctly for bouncing



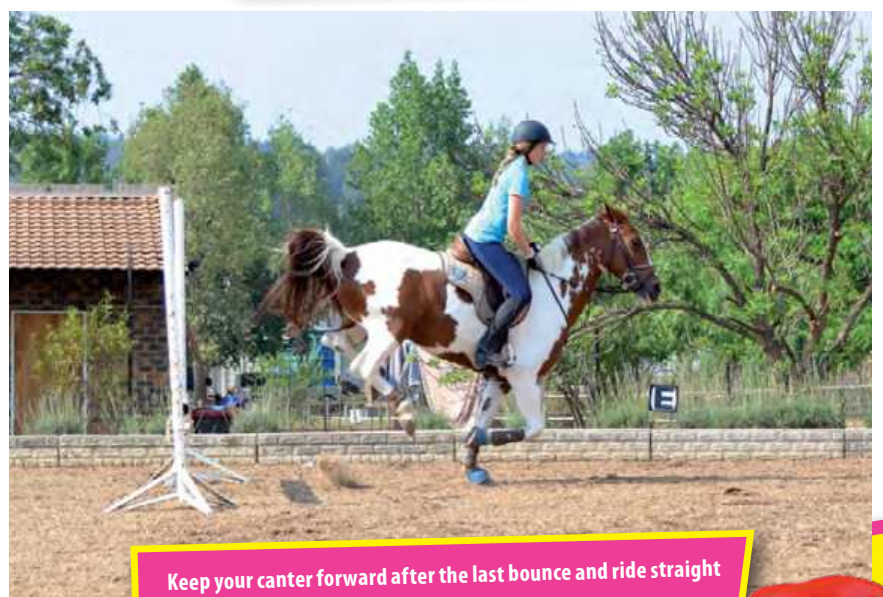
Make sure that you get the right stride for the first bounce



Stay balanced in between your bounces



Focus on riding for the middle of each pole



Keep your canter forward after the last bounce and ride straight

REMEMBER THAT JUST LIKE US, WHEN YOU START TO TRAIN NEW MUSCLES THAT AREN'T USED TO WORKING IN THAT WAY, YOU CAN MAKE THEM SORE AND STIFF. BE SENSITIVE TO YOUR PONY AND HOW HE FEELS AND BUILD THE WORK SLOWLY AND GRADUALLY AS HIS STRENGTH INCREASES.





Look at my hat! Photography: Rita Kochmarjova



The story of SUHO'S STALLION

THE HORSE WHO MADE MUSIC

'A Mongol without a horse is like a bird without wings.' This is an old saying that rings very true for the Mongolian people. Horses offer them transport, food, drink and entertainment and are as much a part of their lives as breathing.

These horses are always a little wild as the Mongolians do not wish to break their spirits, making the bond between horse and rider something truly remarkable. Their stories and culture show this well, like in the tale of Suho.

BEST FRIENDS

Suho was a poor farmer who lived far away from the nomad tribes. One day he came across a white foal in the field. The foal was hungry and close to death. Taking pity on the little creature, Suho took him home. They became fast friends and often played in the

fields. As the foal grew from colt to stallion he helped Suho to guard the sheep.

Word reached Suho one day that the emperor was holding a *naadam* (Mongolian horserace). Enticed, he entered his stallion and won the race with surprising ease. But the emperor wanted the stallion for himself and told the guards to beat Suho and capture him. Suho barely made it out alive and his beloved friend was taken away. But the horse wanted none of it and broke free to run back to Suho. The emperor ordered his guards to bring the horse back or kill him, for no man should have the horse if he could not.

FATAL RUN

Chasing the stallion across the plains they shot him with arrows, but he was so fast they eventually gave up. He made it home but his

wounds were grave and he soon passed away with Suho by his side. The man's heart was broken over the loss of his friend. That night the horse came to him in a dream and told him: "Take my bones, skin, hair, tendons and tail and turn them into an instrument, so we may be together even in death."

MAKING MUSIC

The following morning Suho did just as he was told and crafted a fine violin which Mongolians know today as the *morin khuur*. The violin is a national instrument in Mongolia and the story of Suho is a musical piece often played by its people. All of these violins are carved with a horse head at the top, so the people will remember who gave them such a beautiful instrument. ♪



Horses are a vital part of Mongolian culture

The design of the Mongolian morin khuur violin was inspired by Suho's stallion



FUN IN THE SUN

A BITTER-SWEET SANESA NATIONALS 2015

SANESA Nationals 2015, sponsored by Farm City, was held from 3 to 10 October 2015 at the amazing Misty Meadows venue near Cullinan. The first weekend was dedicated to Western mounted games and much fun and competitive excitement was had by everyone.

Tuesday

The exciting phase of eventing, the cross country, took place under very hot but breezy conditions. The horses coped well with the high temperatures and the riders were congratulated on how well they looked after their horses after the completion of their cross country rounds, with plenty of cooling down followed by cool hosepipe showers. The showjumping phase took place in the afternoon and the horses all looked well, refreshed and eager to jump.

Monday

On Monday 5 October it was SANESA eventing's turn, with 91 riders taking part. The dressage arenas and tests rode well and one of the dressage judges commented on how good the standard was this year, which is wonderful positive feedback for SANESA eventers.



Wednesday

Wednesday was a day off from competition, but the amazing Dragon Race was run in the afternoon. This team event was organised and well run by the Misty Meadows personnel. Everyone experienced a great adventure while racing through mud, water, dust and forests.

Thursday

The day offered very hot weather. It was the start of the Core League part of Nationals. With over 3,000 entries happening over the following 3 days and 10 arenas running each day, things were very frantic, but seemed to run smoothly with riders and their horses enjoying the show.



Saturday

On Saturday, there was a break in the competitive classes for the parade, which was extra special this year because it was dedicated to the founder of SANESA, Marlene du Plessis. Marlene came to the end of her term of office as president of SANESA in November. Without this dynamic lady, there would be no SANESA. The provinces gave Marlene a wonderful send-off, with each province dressed up in suitable gear to represent their province. The North West province had their younger athletes dressed as sunflowers, but all some rather grumpy boys who were not keen to be sunflowers, but all agreed in the end. They deservedly won the Best Dressed Province award. It was wonderful to have special guests for the parade: the SAEF vice president, Shelly Beckbessinger, and her husband, Peter. Peter did a fabulous job announcing over the microphone for both the parade and the fun inter-provincial jumping competition that followed. This was won by a fabulous and fast duo from Mpumalanga.



ABOUT THOSE LEGS

BEHIND, IN FRONT – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



We often hear our instructors tell us that our horse is behind the leg – you may recognise this feeling and work to bring him in front of the leg. But what if you don't know the difference, and what is 'in front of the leg' or 'behind the leg'?

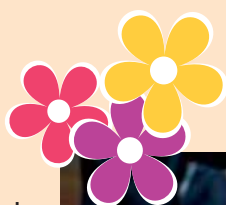
IN FRONT OF THE LEG

Simply put, a pony is in front of the leg when he responds promptly to your leg aids, and when he willingly maintains the same amount of energy in his work, whether your leg is on or not. This does not mean running away from your leg, but a relaxed state where his energy is always available to you. The energy we refer to can also be called impulsion, which we discussed in *What is impulsion?* in issue 71 (November) of *HQPony*.

Your leg aid and your pony's response should only take as long as a hiccup and you should have the feeling that regardless of what you are doing, you could ask your pony for an upward or downward transition and within 3 strides have the perfect response. It is this feeling of 'availability' to the aids that is described as in front of the leg.

BEHIND THE LEG

When a pony is behind the leg, although he may move forward when the leg is applied, he'll slow down or even stop as soon as the leg is taken off. Then when the leg aid is given again, he may not respond immediately – in which case, galloping down the long sides of the arena may help to get him going forward more freely as it 'activates' most horses.



A horse who resists the leg can be very frustrating to ride



EARLY TRAINING

If you are riding a young pony, you will need to spend time training him to be in front of your leg, and a certain amount of patience and understanding is needed to not make him frightened of your aids. An older pony can be ridden a little more strictly, as long as he understands what you are asking.

To start with you want to teach your horse to go smartly forward from the leg. Apply your leg aid as softly as you want to ride. If he doesn't respond, use your leg again sharper and immediately tap with your crop or whip, sharp enough to make him respond quickly. Immediately reward him for listening. The next time you ask, ask softly and quietly again and repeat until he responds to the quiet, soft aid.

Responsive ponies need sensitive, responsive but quiet riders. A rider who constantly kicks will teach the most responsive pony to ignore the leg. Once your horse has responded to your soft aid, relax your leg. If he goes to slow down, quickly correct him and relax your leg when he responds again. Keep doing this until he starts to stay forward, even when your leg is relaxed and quiet.

TRANSITIONS AND RIDING FORWARD

Transitions and riding forward are wonderful ways of getting a lazy pony or one who is slow to the aids to sharpen up and react with more energy. Think of riding as holding a conversation with your pony. You ask questions and he must answer!

A good exercise to train this quick response to the leg is walk-trot-walk transitions on a 20m circle. Ride a minimum of 2 transitions per circle with 3 to 5 walk strides between trot transitions. You want to feel as if the walk is marching with activity. In all transitions, whether upwards or downwards, you must think 'forward' in rhythm in your riding.

Stay alert to the time it takes your horse to respond to your leg. Part of what we're looking for is a balance between the 'go' and the 'whoa'. That is to say the horse must respond to both the forward aids, creating energy that goes across the ground, as well as to the half-halt.

Mix up the exercise by counting different numbers of strides for walk and trot so that

You should get the feeling that your horse will speed up – or slow down – with just the lightest aid

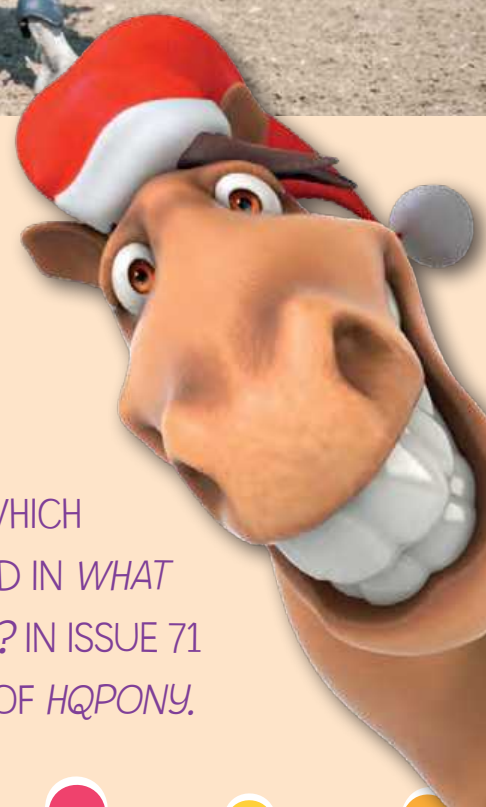


you keep your pony guessing (yes they can count too and quickly learn to anticipate the walk); change between walk and trot, and trot-canter-trot transitions. You'll know he has enough activity/impulsion when he responds instantaneously to a light leg aid and feels like he has more 'bounce' or cadence in his trot.

While you may need to ride your pony forward using speed in the beginning, remember that the goal is to have the energy to ride forward at any time, but in the natural rhythm that each pony has.

When you start to ride like this, then your pony starts to 'dance' and you look truly professional and comfortable in the saddle. U

THE ENERGY WE REFER TO CAN ALSO BE CALLED IMPULSION, WHICH WE DISCUSSED IN *WHAT IS IMPULSION?* IN ISSUE 71 (NOVEMBER) OF HQPONY.



Riding is good for you!

RIDER OF THE MONTH



Sydney has been riding since she was 3. If not on a horse, she is jumping dogs in the back garden, playing with her Breyer horses or watching horse movies.

Now 10 years old, she stables at Sun Valley Stables and has competed in the SANESA Interschools for the last 3 years in dressage, showing, jumping and equitation. This year she was chosen to represent Gauteng Central at the Nationals in October for jumping, performance and Working Riding.

Friends and family are convinced that her riding career has enhanced her life, and given her so many more experiences to mould her personality.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

This was her first year on her new pony, Waterside Elmo's Flame, and they competed together in the Mark White Nissan Equitation League. It wasn't a smooth journey; they would do very well in one test and in the next test Flame would start galloping and bucking after each

jump. Fortunately Sydney had the patience to bring him back to a trot, slow him down and then proceed to the next jump. She did not give up, but attended each of the events in the Mark White Nissan League, ultimately going on to win the Victor Ludorum! She was so thrilled as she did not expect the award at all!

Equitation is a great discipline as the rider needs to communicate with her horse at all times, telling him to be on the correct leg after each jump, to keep an even, controlled, smooth canter throughout the entire jumping course, to jump exactly in the middle of each jump, and so on. So horse and rider need to concentrate and work as a team throughout the entire test. It's a good way to teach a young person about handling stress, improving memory, control and discipline. These are very important lessons in life.

Sydney's family believes that the lessons she has learned from riding have helped her with her life skills, athletics, swimming, netball and hockey at school. It has helped her mature and grow into a wonderful little girl! ☺

Vital stats

Name: Sydney Pollock

Horse: Waterside Elmo's Flame

Age: 10

Lives in: Gauteng



Are you a rider who is worthy of the RIDER Of The Month title? Tell us why in 300 words. Be sure to include a large, high resolution (no less than 1,000kb) photo of your pony and one of you (cellphone pictures not accepted), as well as your vital stats. Send your story to: hqpony@panorama.co.za. Or post it to: Rider Of The Month, HQ Pony, Private Bag X4, Kyalami, 1684.



A new beginning for an old boy



Vital stats

Name: Never Imagined (Zippy)

Breed: Nooitgedacht

Height: 15.2hh

Colour: Flea-bitten grey

Owner: Sarah Jane Ackland

Lives in: Cape Town

Age: 17



When we went to try Zippy out, he bucked me off and tried to buck 2 other people off as well! I was very nervous to get back on because I had had quite a bad fall, but there was something about this overweight Nooitie that could not be ignored. I discussed Zippy with my parents and instructor for quite some time, and even though Zippy is 17 years old, we decided to give him a try.

In November 2014 we moved him to our yard and that was such an amazing turning point. He went from bucking all his riders, breaking fences and not respecting people on the ground to being the most amazing horse who I trust with my life. It has taken us so long with the help from my instructor,

SJ, to get him to the fitness level that he is at now. He had trouble trotting for a short period of time but now he can do anything! We have started doing a lot of cross country because I'm at an eventing yard and he loves it just as much as I do.

Zippy is an amazing pony who never disappoints me. Whenever I go to the yard, I can whistle and he will make his way towards me. He always follows me around and when I pop in for quick visits he always nickers a happy hello.

I never would have imagined in my wildest dreams that I would be jumping bareback in a halter on my perfect grey pony, but thanks to my family and friends I can live my dreams with my very special pony, Zippy! 🐾



Is your pony worthy of the HORSE/PONY Of The Month title? Tell us why in 300 words. Be sure to include a large, high resolution (no less than 1,000kb) photo of your pony and one of you (cellphone pictures not accepted), as well as your vital stats. Send your story to: hqpony@panorama.co.za. Or post it to: Pony Of The Month, HQ Pony, Private Bag X4, Kyalami, 1684.







Mini love! Photography: Krizelda Carelse Photography

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A picture of beauty. Photography: AsyaPozniak

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HORSEY presents

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE EQUESTRIAN!

Text: Charlotte Bastiaanse

Photography: Shutterstock, Western Shoppe

One thing is guaranteed when shopping for the equestrian: as long as it's a present to do with ponies, it can't go wrong!

It's that time of the year again – our friends and families are asking what would horse riders want for Christmas? Horsey gifts of course!

Equestrians are always mad about presents that are practical for themselves or their horses. Whether it's a new pair of riding boots or a pair of overreach boots – as long as it's horsey, we'll find a use for it! This month we take a look at some equestrian presents to help you out if you're writing up your Christmas wish list or brainstorming a present for your BFF.



get
personal



A personalised phone cover shows everyone how much you love your pony!

KEEP
CALM
AND
GO RIDE
ZAZA

Custom-made gifts always make someone feel special!

Who doesn't love a personalised gift? There are plenty of places nowadays that can customise horsey products for you. A custom-made name board is always a safe option and sure to hang proudly next to any pony's stable.

We've all seen the 'Keep calm and carry on' posters, so why not custom-make one with your friend's pony's name? You could have it printed and framed or even printed on canvas to make it extra special! (Visit keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk to make your own!)

Lots of printing companies, such as Q-Photo, make custom calendars. Why not send them 12 high-quality photographs of your pony or your friend's pony and get them to make one for you? You can also get things like mugs, pillowcases, T-shirts and

loads more printed!

Personalised numnahs are a popular choice. Red Dapple Designs allows you to choose your numnah size, shape, colour and embroidery! They also custom-make day sheets, ear veils, trucking boots, saddle covers, boots, bandages, fly masks, helmet bags – you name it! Visit reddapple.co.za to custom-make your own gear!

Macaroon is an awesome company that custom-makes stationery, such as stickers, labels and notepads, as well as cellphone covers. You can get a phone cover made with a picture of your pony or your pony's name! They offer a variety of designs and funky colours as well! Visit macaroon.co.za to check out their stuff!



Overreach boots always get ruined and dirty during work. They make for a great small gift because it's always handy to have spares!

something practical

While it's always great to receive a personalised gift, some of us might appreciate a present that can be put to good use. Think of things that break often or need to be replaced on a regular basis. Things like overreach boots, fly masks and halters always seem to get worn out after a short period of time, so it's great to keep extra stock of these things so that you can replace them when necessary.

Other items such as fly spray, treats, plaiting elastics and sponges need to be replaced regularly because they run out so quickly! Most riders would appreciate extras so they don't have to run to the shops every few weeks. Best of all, these tend to be relatively inexpensive and are always appreciated by any equestrian!

A halter with a name plate makes for a great gift!



A photoshoot is a gift that guarantees life-long memories!



Nu Angle stirrup irons are a colourful addition to your tack



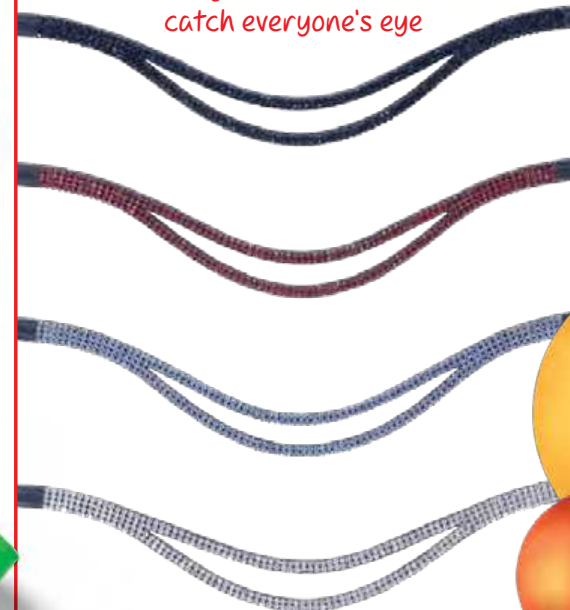
on the expensive side

If you're looking to add some creativity to your tack, coloured stirrup irons are a colourful touch! Nu Angle stirrups are very popular, but if you're on a budget, some tack shops stock generic brands that look similar but cost less.

A custom painting of your pony is always a special and very memorable gift. It's costly but it will last a lifetime. You could also arrange a photoshoot so that you can keep special photographs of you and your pony forever!

Flashy and fabulous

A flashy browband is sure to catch everyone's eye



Flashy tack and glamorous riding clothes will delight the rider who wants to stand out in the show ring. A diamante or colourful browband is a subtle yet eye-catching feature for any pony's bridle!

Lots of tack stores also stock halters with diamante or glitter on the sides. If you're going for something more sophisticated, you could look for a leather halter with a nameplate that you can have engraved.

For a rider, you could look for a pretty show shirt or a sparkly belt. Or try colourful or patterned gumboots to use when walking around the yard, especially during the rainy season!

The gift of knowledge

If you're the type of rider who enjoys attending clinics or workshops, why not ask for one for Christmas? If you're based in Gauteng, you could take seat lessons with the Lipizzaners. You can also ask for a session with a top instructor in your area.

Some of the best gifts in life are those that allow us to learn



Your ponies

Visit HORSE.CO.ZA and check out the GALLOPING GALLERY for more pics of Your Ponies!

And the winner is ...



Pony love is pure bliss! Howzat and Alyssa Hill, Hillcrest



The first time I set eyes on this amazing creature, I knew we were perfect for each other!
Eve Jerram, Hout Bay



Niekla and Tandy having a moment.
Anja Hougaard, Langebaan



Cathy-Lee von Backstrom, her pony Megan May, and proud dad Jannes. Sent in by Carien von Backstrom, Pretoria.



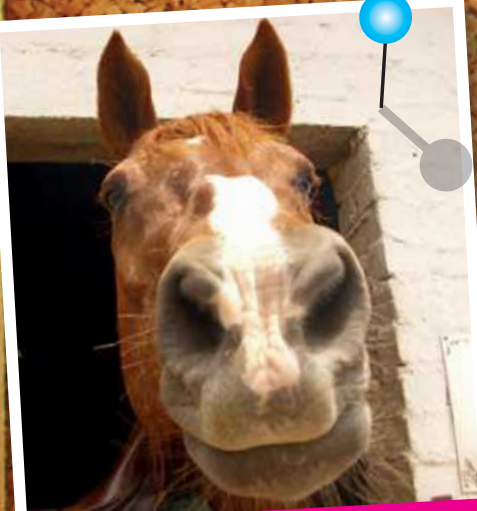
Elouize is proud to ride her new friend, Arik. Iza Otto, Quebella Equine Centre, Louis Trichardt



Jessica and Marzi - show time!
Jessica du Plessis, Meyerton



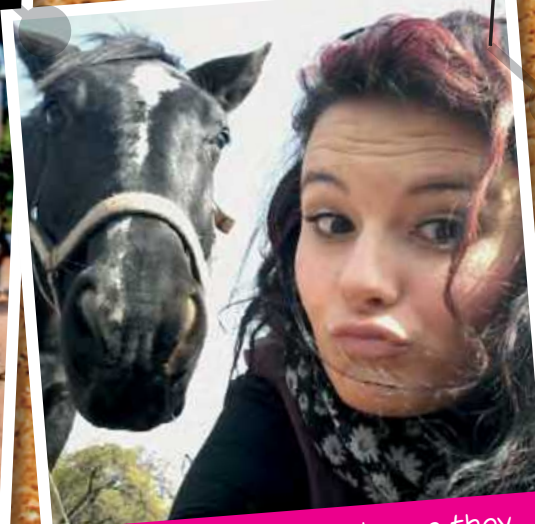
Maxamillian. Anja Hougaard, Langebaan



Muzzle shot! Angela Spenceley, Jukskei Park



Flying! Hannah van Niekerk, Boksborg



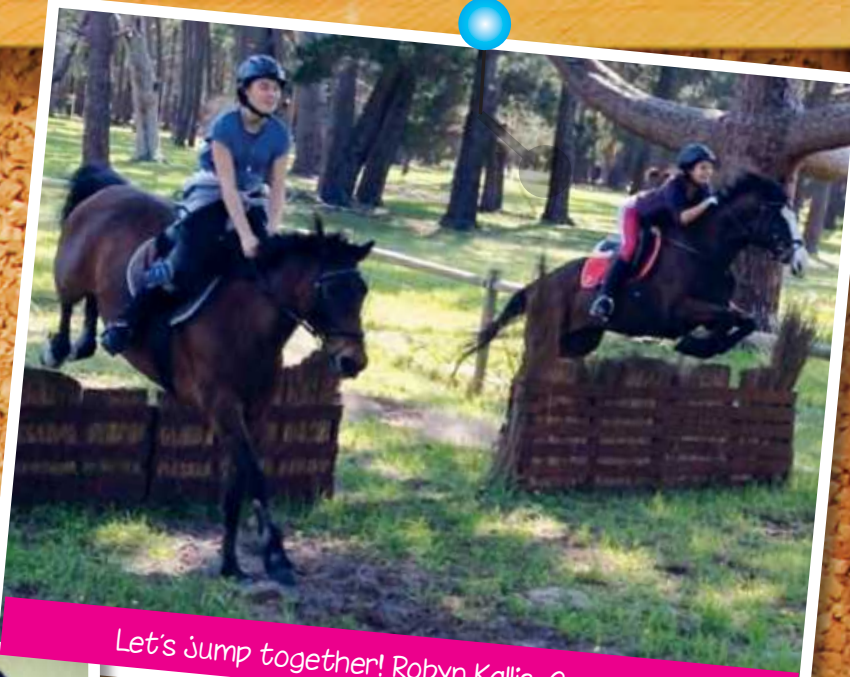
If we give horses a chance they can become our best friends!
Shiné Brits, Lydenburg



"Not a morning person!" Klein-Taks is usually a pretty Boerperd mare. Iza Otto, Quebella Equine Centre, Louis Trichardt



Sabrina and Bella collecting rosettes. Fun times!! Sabrina Bailey, Zimbali



Let's jump together! Robyn Kallis, Cape Town



Horse riding in the mountains. Mieke Crause, Potchefstroom



Celebrity untacked after a long day of jumping. She's not fast, but I love her. Georgia Maroudas, Hermanus



Curious Feather. Renata de Villiers, Secunda



Moni and her pony Klippias at Ki Hara Stables in the Northern Cape. Sent in by Dirkie Scholtz



Simonique Duminy and Podhajsky at the SANESA Nationals 2015. Photo by Edwin Raubenheimer



Meg Tucker and her lovely pony, Assegai Summer Song. Sent from Kyalami



Nikki Bastiaanse and her horse sharing some love. Sent in from Pretoria East



Marijke giving Annie a big kiss! Sent from Pretoria

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Rules: Only **LARGE, CLEAR** photographs **over 1,000kb** in size will be published. No colour photocopies will be accepted. If you would like your photographs returned to you, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your entry.

KNOW YOUR TACK! PARTS OF THE SADDLE



We all ride in them and know that they come in different sizes and styles depending on the discipline that we do. How many of us know all the parts of the saddle that we ride in?

OUTER SIDE OF THE SADDLE

Pommel

In the case of English saddles the pommel is a gently rounded piece in front of where you sit. It is the front end of the saddle tree and sits above the horse's wither. In Western saddles, depending on their purpose (for example roping or reining), the pommel can look like a handle, useful for snugging a rope around.

Skirt

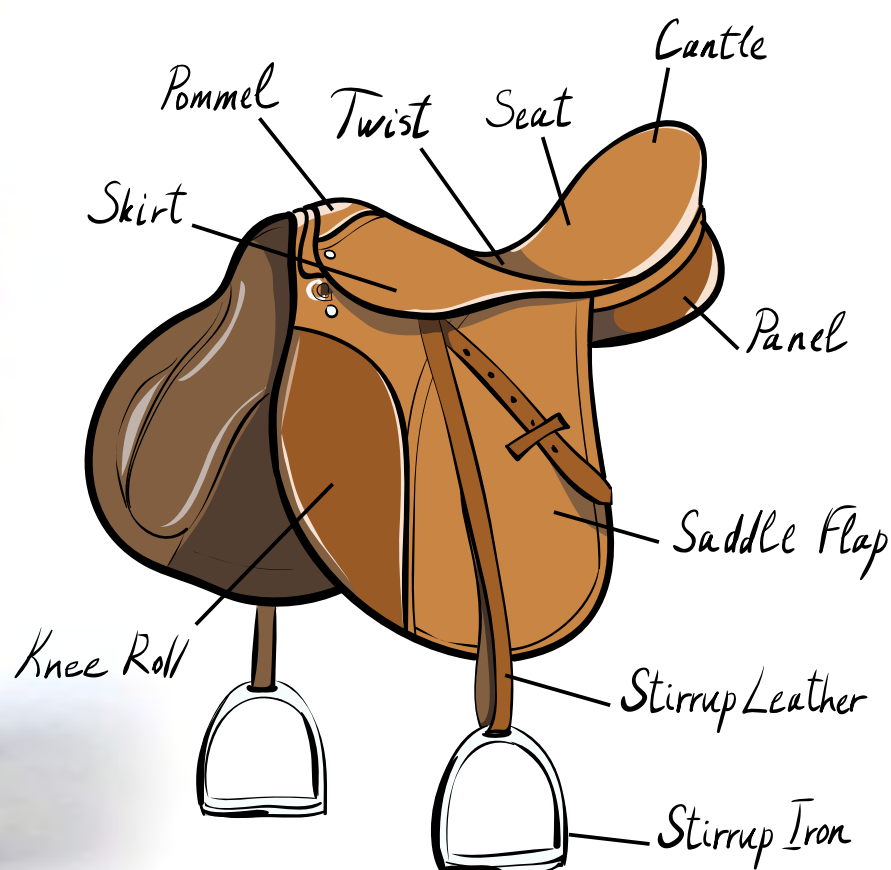
The skirt is the small rounded flap which covers the stirrup bar, where the stirrup leathers and stirrup hang from. It protects the rider's leg from being hurt by the stirrup buckle and helps to prevent the stirrup buckle from coming undone.

Twist

The twist is the narrowest part of the seat and the saddle tree.



Parts of saddle



Seat

The seat is the padded area where you sit. It includes the pommel, twist and cantle. Seats may come in different profiles depending on the saddle's use. Many dressage saddles have much deeper seats than jumping or eventing saddles, for instance.

Cantle

The cantle is the raised arch at the back of the saddle. It is formed by the rear end of the tree. Cantles are sometimes built up high, in the case of the very deep-seated saddles, and may be much flatter in the case of the close contact jumping saddles.

Flap

The saddle flap is the external flap that hangs underneath the stirrup leathers. It protects the rider from feeling the girth buckles and often has the knee roll underneath it or in some cases built into it. Some modern dressage saddles are 'monoflap' saddles, which means that they have 1 flap consisting of 2 thinner pieces of leather stitched together with the girth points running between the 2 pieces of leather.

The flap will also have different shapes or styles depending on the style of saddle. Dressage and showing saddles have longer, straighter-cut flaps. Jumping and eventing saddles have shorter flaps that are rotated far further forward than dressage saddles due to the rider's shorter stirrup length.

Knee roll

The knee roll varies in size and position depending on the saddle's purpose. Many modern saddles have knee rolls that are separate and Velcro onto the sweat flap of the saddle. They are available in different sizes and can be positioned on the flap according to the rider's preference. The knee roll helps to provide the rider with some stability for their leg and can help with the correct leg placement.

Thigh roll

Some saddles have thigh rolls to assist with rider stability and leg position. This is a small roll that sits behind the rider's thigh.

Stirrup leather

The stirrup leather holds the stirrup and keeps it attached to the saddle. Its length is adjustable for different leg lengths.

UNDERSIDE OF THE SADDLE

Tree

The saddle tree is the most important part of the saddle. It sets the profile, size, shape and purpose of the saddle. Many modern saddles have adjustable trees to help with improving the range of fit of the saddle.

The gullet

The gullet is the channel which is formed between the 2 panels. It sits above the horse's spine, giving the vertebrae a clear channel. Width and shape vary depending on how the panels are positioned on the tree and how well flocked they are.

Panels

Panels are the padded sections which attach on the bottom side of the saddle tree. They often have different shapes and thicknesses to suit different conformation types and uses. This is the part that is adjusted with flocking when your saddle is fitted to your horse. Some panels are made of foam and these are not adjustable.

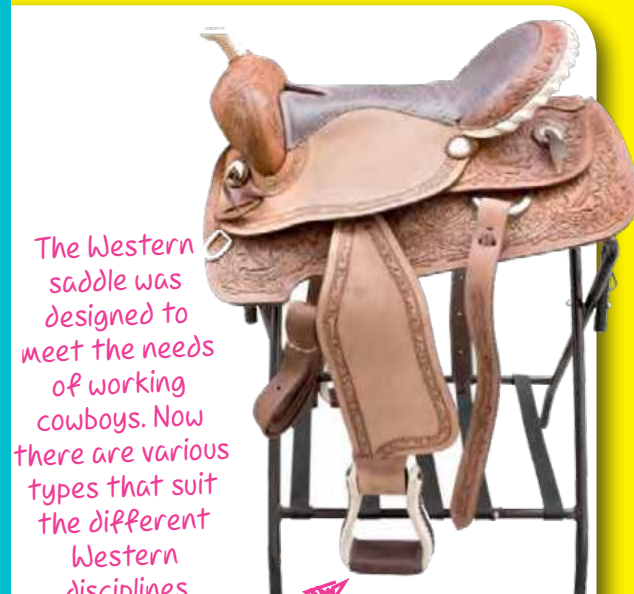
Sweat flap

The sweat flap attaches to the panels and sits against the horse below the saddle flap. It protects the horse from the pressure of the girth buckles and the rest of the saddle from sweat. It is made from strong, thick leather. In monoflap saddles the leather is much thinner.

Girth points

The girth points are attached to strong webbing which runs over and is attached to the saddle tree. The girth is buckled onto the girth points. There are normally 3 points (for jumping, general purpose and eventing saddles); 2 girth points are attached to 1 webbing strap over the tree and 1 point is on its own strap. For safety, the girth should always be done up on the 1 point that is on its own strap and then one of the points on the double strap. In this way, if the webbing snaps, the girth is secured to 2 separate pieces.

Dressage saddles have 2 girth points that are much longer and the girth fastens below the saddle flap, to give the rider as much closeness to the horse as possible. U



The Western saddle was designed to meet the needs of working cowboys. Now there are various types that suit the different Western disciplines



A dressage saddle showing the longer flap. You can also see the skirt over the stirrup bar and buckles



In the front you can see the knee roll on this English saddle



This saddle clearly shows the skirt and the twist as well as the pommel, cantle, seat and flap

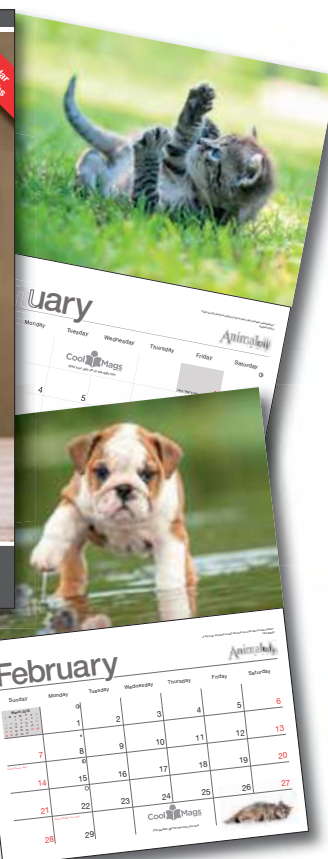
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Text: Bill Marshall
Photography: Courtesy of the Rand Hunt Club

Try something

NEW!

WANT TO JOIN THE HUNT?

It is a surprise to many to discover that drag hunting has a strong following in South Africa. Drag hunting involves riding with hounds who hunt an artificially laid scent. It is one of the oldest equestrian sports in the country: the Cape Hunt dates back to 1822 and the Rand Hunt held its first meet in 1887.

Local conditions have led to both of the South African hunts being drag hunts, and since the sport involves **no live hunting or killing**, it has avoided the global controversy over hunting.



Up and over!



All levels can join! This rider gets a safe escort through water

How the pros do it. Adult riders in their 'pinks' (which are actually red!)

THE CHILDREN'S HUNT

Once a year, the Rand Hunt Club organises a Children's Meet, a hunt specially structured to give children and juniors an opportunity to experience the thrill of hunting. This year's Children's Meet will be held at Inanda Country Base in Kyalami, on 6 December 2015.

For this event, the Rand Hunt provides a number of experienced riders, who ride with the children on the jumping field and on the different hacks. Before the ride starts, there is a short talk from the field master, who also introduces the huntsman, the whippers-in, and the different hack masters. The talk includes useful guidelines.

DRESS CODE

The only absolutely compulsory items are a safe hat and safe footwear. Without these, you will be asked to leave the hunt. The other clothing items are merely guidelines:

- A black or tweed jacket with cream or beige breeches. Children and juniors may wear their school blazer if they don't have a jacket.
- A stock with a black jacket that is firmly fixed to the shirt. Children and juniors can wear a tie if they don't own a stock.
- Men wear black boots with or without brown tops. Ladies wear black boots. Children and juniors may wear jodhpur boots or shoes with a good heel.
- Gloves look smart and prevent blisters.
- A hunting whip with a thong and lash is correct; however, children may carry a short whip if they need one.
- Plaiting your horse's mane, including his forelock, is encouraged; however, don't plait his tail.



So much fun!



Country obstacles

TIPS FOR THE HUNT

- Always give way to and face the hounds.
- Never ride too close to the hounds.
- Never overtake the field master.
- If your pony refuses a jump, get out of the way as quickly and as safely as possible.
- Do not ride too closely to the horse in front of you.
- If your pony kicks, tie a red ribbon around his tail and keep at the back of the group.
- If someone falls off, make sure that they are alright and that there is someone to look after them. You may need to wait with them, especially if they are trying to get back on their horse again.
- If you want to leave the hunt early, you must tell the field master and whoever you have been following.

GET INVOLVED!

Want to try the sport for yourself? Contact the Rand Hunt Club for more information on how to start, as well as upcoming events! Call 083 653 2709 or visit www.randhunt.co.za.

RIDING FOR YOUR REGION!

CREATING MEMORIES

Text: Michelle MacKenzie

Photography: Courtesy of Megan Calitz of Infinite Memories

It is super cool (and a great honour) to be chosen to ride for your region (as many SANESA riders who recently competed at Nationals well know!). South African Pony Club riders have the opportunity to do exactly the same thing, against other Pony Clubbers from all across the country.

Riders from Pony Club branches across each of the 3 regions save up their cash to pay for entries in as many disciplines as they can! Parents and branch committee members organise and transport ponies long distances to give their riders the chance to get together for these amazing annual shows.

Sharing experiences

This year the Gauteng & Limpopo (G&L) region held their 2-day show in Johannesburg, followed by the 3-day Western Cape (WC) Inter-Branch the following weekend. The legendary 5-day KZN show is scheduled for December. Sadly the huge travelling distances to a central show venue in the Eastern Cape (EC) has stopped this region from hosting an EC Inter-Branch show. The Gonubie branch in EC jumped at the chance to compete at the G&L region's show when they were invited. In 2012 and 2013 Gauteng & Limpopo riders had trucked their horses down to compete at the KZN Inter-Branch at the Durban Shongweni Club, so it was time to 'pass forward' the experience to another region's riders!

Visiting riders

Two Gonubie riders arrived in Johannesburg 2 days before the show, accompanied by their branch District Commissioner, Angeline Wheeler, and the branch instructor. They had thoroughly enjoyed their road trip, and were keen to meet the ponies they were going to ride!

Sara attained Regional Half Colours when she was selected to ride for the EC region

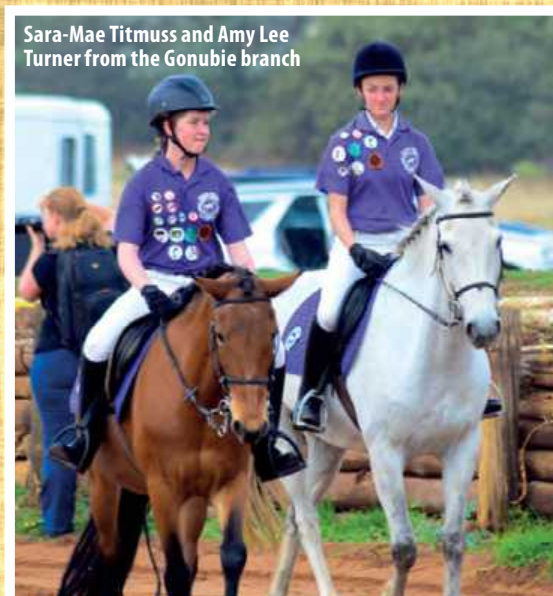


Twelve-year-old Sara-Mae Titmuss and 15-year-old Amy Lee Turner were really lucky with the ponies generously loaned by the show venue yard owners. Eric and Jennifer Bianchi, as well as their stable manager, Linda Grilo, were unfailingly helpful and supportive, organising opportunities for the girls to try out a number of ponies over 2 days. It is not easy to bond with unknown ponies you may have only ridden twice before having to compete on them in a number of disciplines.

But Sara-Mae and Amy rose to the occasion, proving to be impressive Pony Club all-rounders, competing in dressage, equitation and showjumping classes over the weekend. They also had a ball competing in the fun jumpkhana class (a combination of showjumping and mounted games obstacles, ridden against the clock).

Amy and Sara-Mae proved to be gutsy and really competent, not only placing in the Inter-Branch classes, but qualifying to compete in the Novice Inter-Regional classes! This makes them the first riders in their region to ever qualify for Regional Half Colours.

Sara-Mae Titmuss and Amy Lee Turner from the Gonubie branch



Sara competing on Jackie's Flame

Travelling judges

Unlike the SANESA Nationals competition, which is run at a central venue for all qualifying riders in South Africa, each Pony Club region runs the championship classes for those who are eligible to compete as a team for their region, at the various Inter-Branch shows. Instead of transporting riders and horses across country to one show venue, the Inter-Regional judges travel and judge at all 3 shows.

Virtual tests

'Virtual dressage' tests were ridden for the first time this year, in front of a videographer instead of a judge. The videos of each test ridden in all regions will be sent on flash drives to the Inter-Regional dressage judge to view and adjudicate. Once all the results are collated, rosettes and sashes are sent to each region to be presented to the top SAPC Regional Novice and Open teams in the country.

Building relationships

There is no doubt that regional exchanges like this one create memories and build relationships between Pony Club members! Amy and Sara-Mae will long remember helping the G&L show committee produce 55 packets of popcorn to go with the hot chocolate served at Saturday evening's outdoor movie night, helping to pack up the show (and load the ponies in the rain), as well as the hospitality of the Walkerville branch and the Southern Riding Centre show venue! ☺



Amy in the main arena for the parade at Southern Riding Centre



Amy riding her Junior Welcome dressage test



Beautifully turned out for dressage



Sara-Mae in her branch golf shirt and numnah in the parade



Sara competing on Danger Mouse in Children's Novice dressage



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With love to my best friend and his best friend...woof!



With love to my horsey friends



With love and bling to my daughter



With hugs to the princess in our family



With love and great thoughts to my man